

12 meters. Especially when treating a patient from below, the proton beam guiding device must be moved under the patient table, or the patient table must be raised to a position several meters above the actual level of the working base. The resulting specific disadvantages may also be found in the above-cited literature reference on page 49 in chapter IV, D4 which cites the problems entailed by raising the patient table in this way. This positioning process is critical, and in the event the device experiences an accident during treatment, a special crane device is required to extract or manage the patient. While this disadvantage may be alleviated by providing a relatively deep shaft under the patient table, this approach creates a risk of accidents, such as the person treating the patient falling into this shaft.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 15, 18 and 25 to read as follows:

15. (Amended) Apparatus for treating a patient using proton therapy, comprising:

a proton beam guiding device employing magnets, quadrupoles, and an end-mounted proton beam guiding and control device with an exit window

for guiding or directing the proton beam to the treatment spot in the patient;

a controllably movable patient table for moving the patient to the desired position relative to the proton beam;

wherein the proton beam guiding and control device is located so as to be turnable or rotatable by turning or rotating less than a full 360° about a horizontal axis in such a way that there results a region through which the

proton beam guiding and control device is not freely movable, in which region the patient table located in essentially the plane of the horizontal axis of rotation remains accessible from the side; and

wherein the patient table is rotatable in a horizontal plane running essentially through the axis of rotation of the proton beam guiding device or parallel to it and displaced by a small deviation around an axis which runs essentially through the isocenter of the apparatus, which isocenter is formed by the intersection of the proton beam with the horizontal axis of rotation or with the intersection by approximation of the beam with the horizontal axis of rotation.

18. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the patient table is arranged to be rotatable or movable in the region of the horizontal plane through which the beam guiding and control device is not movable.

25. (Amended) A method for treating a patient using proton therapy, the method comprising:

directing a proton beam to a treatment spot in a patient using an apparatus comprising a proton beam guiding device employing magnets, quadrupoles, and an end-mounted proton beam guiding and control device with an exit window for guiding or directing the proton beam to the treatment spot in the patient, wherein the proton beam guiding and control device is located so as to be turnable or rotatable by turning or rotating less than a full

360° about a horizontal axis in such a way that there results a region through which the proton beam guiding and control device is not freely movable; and a controllably movable patient table for moving the patient to the desired position relative to the proton beam; and

24 wherein the method includes positioning a person lying on the patient table by moving the patient table and proton beam guiding and control device of the apparatus such that the proton beam is directed to the treatment spot in the patient, and wherein the patient table remains accessible by way of said region at all times from one side.

